What is claimed is:

Claim 1. A method to additionally test a patient's specimen using an analyzer some period of time after tests on an aliquot portion taken from the patient's specimen are completed by retaining said aliquot of the patient's specimen within said analyzer for a period of time.

Claim 2. A method to additionally test a patient's specimen using an analyzer some period of time after tests on a first aliquot portion taken from the patient's specimen are completed by retaining a second aliquot portion taken from the patient's specimen within said analyzer for a period of time.

Claim 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient's specimen is retained within a storage compartment.

Claim 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient's specimen is retained within a storage compartment.

Claim 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the storage compartment comprises environmentally controlled conditions.

Claim 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the storage compartment comprises environmentally controlled conditions.

Claim 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient's specimen is marked to determine if an aliquot of a patient's specimen is to be retained in storage.

Claim 8. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient's specimen is marked to determine if an aliquot of a patient's specimen is to be retained in storage.

Claim 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient's specimen is marked to determine the period of time for patient's specimen to be retained in storage.

Claim 10. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient's specimen is marked to determine the period of time for patient's specimen to be retained in storage.

Claim 11. The method of claim 1 wherein tests to be performed upon a patient's specimen are examined to ascertain the period of time a patient's specimen is to be retained in storage.

Claim 12. The method of claim 2 wherein tests to be performed upon a patient's specimen are examined to ascertain the period of time a patient's specimen is to be retained in storage.

Claim 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the patient's specimen is examined by the analyzer.

Claim 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the patient's specimen is examined by the analyzer.

Claim 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient's specimen is positioned in storage in accord with the expiration of the period of time.

Claim 16. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient's specimen is positioned in storage in accord with the expiration of the period of time.

Claim 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient's specimen is positioned in storage in accord with the length of the period of time.

Claim 18. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient's specimen is positioned in storage in accord with the length of the period of time.

Claim 19. The method of claim 1 where the aliquots of the patient's specimen are retaining in a aliquot strip having a number of open aliquot wells therein.

Claim 20. The method of claim 2 where the aliquots of the patient's specimen are retaining in a aliquot strip having a number of open aliquot wells therein.

Claim 21. The method of claim 2 where the aliquots of the patient's specimen are retaining in a open aliquot storage vessel.

Claim 22. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient's specimen to be stored is covered with layer of protective film.

Claim 23. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient's specimen to be stored is covered with layer of protective film.

Claim 24. The method of claim 22 wherein the layer of protective film is a thin layer of a heat sealed plastic or foil.

Claim 25. The method of claim 23 wherein the layer of protective film is a thin layer of a heat sealed plastic or foil.

Claim 26. The method of claim 22 wherein the layer of protective film is a thin layer of a plastic or foil having adhesive on one surface.

Claim 27. The method of claim 23 wherein the layer of protective film is a thin layer of a plastic or foil having adhesive on one surface.

Claim 28. The method of claim 22 wherein the layer of protective film is a lid that can be applied and removed or easily pierced.

Claim 29. The method of claim 23 wherein the layer of protective film is a lid that can be applied and removed or easily pierced.

Claim 30. A method to automatically extract an initial portion of a formulation solution having an expiration date onboard an analyzer and to retain said formulation solution in storage onboard said analyzer until the expiration date of the formulation solution is reached.

Claim 31. The method of claim 30 further comprising removing said formulation solution from storage and extracting a subsequent portion of said formulation solution before the expiration date of the formulation solution is reached.

Claim 32. The method of claim 30 wherein the formulation solution is stored in an environmentally controlled compartment.